

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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NOTE: DAILY REPORT NO 248 WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED ON 24 DECEMBER 1979 BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY DECLARED FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES THAT DATE BY EXECUTIVE ORDER. HOWEVER, THE SUPPLEMENT SERIES "REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN" WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THAT DATE AND DISTRIBUTED ON 26 DECEMBER.

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LIBYAN AUTHORITIES HALT DEALINGS WITH PLO TRIPOLI OFFICE

NC211035 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 21 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The authorities of the Libyan regime yesterday halted dealings with the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] office in Tripoli. These authorities also declared null official forms and papers bearing the PLO seal. The Libyan authorities passed a relevant circular in this respect to all government departments, ministries and authorities. The circular declared null all official protocols which had been previously approved if these formalities bore the signature and seal of PLO office officials.

This measure is part of the Libyan regime's suspicious campaign against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian revolution and its command and part of the campaign of casting doubt being waged by the misleading Libyan propaganda media.

'ARAFAT ON PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON, TUNIS SUMMIT

LD201547 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Dec 79 p 18 LD

[Interview granted by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Muhammad Abu Ghawsh in Amman on 6 December]

[Excerpts] [Question] Some people are apprehensive and worried about the Palestinian future, particularly the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon in the wake of Tunis summit. Will the Palestinian revolution leader clarify this matter?

[Answer] I am not worried at all, because the Tunis summit confirmed the rights of the Lebanese authorities, its sovereignty, independence and the integrity of its soil against any occupation or usurpation, particularly Israeli usurpation. It also confirmed the agreements concluded between us and the Lebanese authorities under the Cairo agreement and its supplement to the Riyadh, Shtawra, and Bayt ad-Din agreements. The Tunis summit was tantamount to confirming all these Lebanese-Palestinian agreements. It is understood that there is no contradiction between the Palestinian armed presence and Lebanese sovereignty; the basic contradiction is with the Israeli presence that occupies 790 square kilometers of Lebanese territory.

[Question] Does Abu 'Ammar believe that the secessionist forces will resort to provocations in order to abort any Arab agreement or any agreement that does not please Israel?

[Answer] Following our return from Tunis these forces began escalating their propaganda campaign as well as some of their military actions here and there. I would like to point out that in Tunis Lebanese officials were talking about Lebanese sovereignty, yet 48 hours after their return to Lebanon Bashir al-Jumayyil began displaying the Israeli super-Sherman tanks. I wonder who is violating Lebanese sovereignty? We are not violating it. It is they who are violating it by displaying the Israeli super-Sherman tanks which took part in the operations against Al-Karantina and Al-Maslakh and razed huts there to the ground.

[Question] How do you evaluate the outcome of Tunis summit? Was it a step further toward the Baghdad summit, which raised the "minimum" slogan?

[Answer] The Tunis summit was a step further toward the Baghdad summit. At the Baghdad summit we rejected Camp David and at the Tunis summit we condemned Camp David and U.S. policy; we also condemned U.S. threats in the area.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

[Question] What is Abu 'Ammar's answer to what has been attributed to him regarding a state in Jericho?

[Answer] I said no such thing. What I said was: In my capacity as PLO chairman elected by the Palestine National Council [PNC], I must implement the PNC resolution which provides for the establishment of a Palestinian state on any liberated part of Palestinian soil. When I was asked what are the boundaries of the Palestinian state, I said that they encompass an independent state established on any part of Palestinian soil that is liberated. A journalist asked me: Even in Jericho? To which I replied: The PNC resolution provides for the establishment of a state on any part of Palestinian soil that is liberated, "even Jericho." That is the PNC resolution.

[Question] What about your discussions with King Husayn and the senior Jordanian officials and the meetings of the steadfastness higher committee in Amman?

[Answer] The talks we had with His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian brothers were positive, friendly and fruitful. During the talks we discussed many bilateral issues, including supporting the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories. The joint higher committee for the strengthening of steadfastness held talks in order to discuss matters under its jurisdiction; a meeting of the subcommittee was also held. This goes to show that this matter occupied a major part of our discussions. During the meetings we conducted a thorough appraisal of seven stages covered in this field so far. I can say that we highly appreciated the measures taken so far.

[Question] What about the other issues dealt with in the talks?

[Answer] The talks in fact dealt with a host of issues in the area, including the Tunis summit results and their impact on various levels, as well as on our people in the occupied territories, and their stand against the Camp David conspiracy and the conspiracy of self-rule. We adopted several resolutions regarding all these stands and challenges. I can say that the visit was satisfactory and fruitful. We hope to repeat it frequently and to follow it up by further strengthening struggle cohesion and Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion in the face of all the challenges we are confronting in various fields.

'ARAFAT, OTHERS ATTEND ARAB FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE MEETING

NC201316 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 20 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Arab followup committee and the Palestinian Command held a meeting this morning. Brother 'Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; brother Abu al-Lutf, chairman of the PLO Political Department; brother Aby Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member; and Staff Brig Gen Abu al-Walid, director of the central operations room, attended the meeting on the Palestinian side.

The Arab side in the committee was represented by Kuwaiti Ambassador Abd al-Hamid Bu'ayjan and Saudi Ambassador 'Ali ash-Sha'ir. The Arab League was represented by Hamid as-Sayd and Syrian representative Col Muhammad Ghanim.

At the end of the meeting brother Abu 'Ammar said: We have told the committee that the Lebanese Army now has two battalions in southern Lebanon. We welcome a further 10 battalions to be stationed near each battalion to confront Israel. Let the army be present in southern Lebanon and carry out its tasks to defend the land and Lebanese sovereignty. We welcome another tripartite meeting with the committee.

'ARAFAT, SOVIET LEADERS EXCHANGE MESSAGES

NC211106 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 21 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces, yesterday received Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov, ambassador of the Soviet Union in Beirut.

Comrade Soldatov handed brother Abu 'Ammar a letter from the Soviet leadership connected with current developments and bilateral relations. The brother commander in chief handed the Soviet ambassador a letter to the Soviet leadership. In this letter, the brother commander in chief expressed his thanks and the appreciation and gratitude of the PLO for the Soviet attitude of supporting and backing the Palestinian cause at the 34th session of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council.

PLO SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR ON IRANIAN VOLUNTEERS

NC211130 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 21 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, has commented on the question of the Iranian volunteers. Abu Mayzar said: The Palestinian cause concerns all Arabs and Muslims. It also concerns all the forces of freedom and justice in the world. It is natural that this question should enjoy the solidarity and backing of the Iranian people.

Answering newsmen's questions, brother Abu Mayzar added: It is natural that Arabs, Muslims and the world show solidarity with the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese people in the south, whenever there is an increase in the plots and Zionist aggressions and the provocations of Israel's agents in the south.

Brother Abu Mayzar pointed out that one reason for the Iranian people's solidarity with the Lebanese people in the south, and with the Palestinian revolution, is the exaggeration shown by some Lebanese officials in expressing their reservations over some of the resolutions passed by the Tunis summit conference. He affirmed that the PLO wants to facilitate scrupulous implementation, in both letter and spirit, of the Tunis resolutions and to reject any blackmail or attempt to harm its legitimate interests, which have been recognized in the agreements concluded between the PLO and the legitimate authorities.

In conclusion, brother Abu Mayzar called on the Lebanese legitimate authorities to deal with the Tunis resolutions in the same positive spirit which is characteristic of the PLO, these resolutions having clearly affirmed that Lebanon and Palestine have the same interests. He added that there is no conflict between the legitimate authorities' exercising their responsibilities in the south and the PLO carrying out its own and defending its interests.

VOP CONDEMNS U.S. DECISION TO RETURN TERRORIST TO ISRAEL

NC201805 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 20 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Commenting on the U.S. authorities' decision to hand over Palestinian citizen Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the terrorist-Zionist authorities to arrest, torture and try him on charges of planting explosives in a market in Tiberias in occupied Palestine, a responsible information source said: Once again, the United States discloses its ugly face and its false claims about human rights through the horrible, contradictory acts of President Carter's administration.

At a time when this administration refuses to hand over Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the executioner of the Iranian people, so that he can be tried before the struggling Iranian people, on charges of murder, embezzlement, amassing wealth illegally and massacring thousands of people, the U.S. authorities announced their decision to hand over a Palestinian struggler to Zionist terrorists in implementation of a policy that betrays human rights. [Words indistinct] President Carter's administration, which is convinced of the need to protect the executioner, thief and murderer Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, does not protect a struggler who defended our homeland and resisted the occupation that usurped it.

The Palestinian revolution believes that the U.S. decision to hand over struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn will constitute an aggression against the Palestinian people and against international principles and norms adopted by the United Nations, including the right of the Palestinian people and of all peoples to resist occupation by all ways and means. In view of this decision, the Palestinian revolution appeals to international bodies, the UN human rights committee and the UN secretary general to intercede with the unjust U.S. administration to stop this aggressive measure, which curbs the basic human right to resist occupation.

The Palestinian revolution warns against any harm that might befall the Palestinian struggler when he is handed over to the terrorist-Zionist authorities, from whose prisons Palestinian strugglers emerge maimed and disfigured.

OAPEC HEAD DENOUNCES U.S. ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST IRAN

JN201557 Doha QNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 20 Dec--OAPEC Secretary General Dr 'Ali Ahman 'Atiqah has denounced the U.S. freeze of Iranian assets in U.S. banks and described it as a very troublesome measure to countries with assets in the United States.

In an interview with the Syrian newspaper TISHRIN today, Dr 'Atiqah said that by this measure, the United States has proved that it is the first to use economic means to achieve its political objectives.

Dr 'Atiqah warned against the continued use of the dollar as oil currency because this will give the United States the chance to control the oil-producing countries' revenues.

Dr 'Atiqah expressed the hope that OAPEC will become an instrument for the implementation of a joint Arab policy that will have as its objective the development of traditional and new oil sources and controls on oil consumption. This policy should also be linked to Arab economic and social development.

The OAPEC secretary general called for more Arab solidarity and efforts not to govern economic relations by political changes which might occur among Arab countries because economic relations should exist among all Arab countries.

Dr 'Atiqah participated in the first energy conference which ended its meetings in Damascus yesterday.

BAHRAIN

PAPER URGES RELEASE OF HOSTAGES IN TEHRAN

GF201100 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 20-21-Dec 79 p 2 GF

[Editorial]

[Text] As Christmas approaches--a meaningful religious festival for one of the great religions of the world--the thoughts of many Americans and others throughout the civilised world are turned towards the hapless hostages in Iran. They have been plucked from their normal lives as ordinary people and thrust into the role of pawns in international politics.

We hear that thousands of Christmas cards and gifts are being delivered to the embassy where they are being held prisoners. And now there is talk that their Iranian jailers may well allow them visitors over Christmas. What a tremendous gesture it would be if the Iranian authorities ordered their release so that they can be home in time to join their families in what is a very meaningful time for them.

This gift from the disciples of one great religion to another world exemplify what religion stands for, the treatment of each human being as a precious vessel of God to be handled with the care and consideration that we would wish for ourselves. Love is the greatest force on Earth and it leaves trailing in its wake vengeance and hate. And the more you give of love the more you will receive. It is a commodity very much in short supply in the world in which we live, and the Iranian authorities would be paid back a thousandfold if they demonstrated this care for fellow human beings.

KUWAIT

FINANCE MINISTER ON IRANIAN-U.S. FINANCIAL CLASH

LD191103 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Dec 79 p 6 LD

[Na'im al-Farra report on statements made by Kuwait's finance minister at a seminar held at the College of Commerce at the request of the Kuwait Students National Union on 5 December]

[Excerpts] Finance Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi last night expressed his solidarity with Iran in relation to the freezing of its assets in U.S. banks and their branches abroad.

At a seminar held at the College of Commerce at the request of the Kuwait Students National Union, Al-'Atiqi said the U.S. decision to freeze Iranian assets is based solely on the logic of force.

He said that the decision is unlikely to have any effect on Arab assets and investments in the United States--assets which could not be more than \$20 billion. He explained that the freezing of Iranian assets is regarded as a black mark against the international financial system and has helped to shake confidence in that system as well as in the United States as the leader of capitalism. He pointed out that any measures the United States might take against Arab or non-Arab assets would be more damaging to the United States, whose foreign investments exceed those of the world states in the American market.

On the other hand, Al-'Atiqi expressed Kuwait's refusal to relinquish the dollar as an international currency standard. He also rejected any oil measure that could be harmful to the world.

He said the current official trend is to reduce oil production and increase expenditure in Kuwait. He pointed out that 42.5 percent of Kuwait's total currency reserves are invested inside Kuwait and the rest in the Arab and 25 other world states, and that Kuwait's total investments in the United States do not exceed 1.5 percent of our investments.

Al-'Atiqi began the seminar by saying: Our feelings are with Iran, and the U.S. stand is wrong. It is the stand of the strong against the weak, which is a black mark against the international financial system.

Al-'Atiqi gave some statistics to buttress his view that Arab assets are not threatened because of their meagerness. He said he chose the 1976 statistics because that year is regarded as an accumulation peak, when money was coming in so quickly that we could not absorb any of it and it piled up.

He added that all world states' foreign investments in the United States totaled \$311 billion, whereas the United States alone was investing \$380 billion in world states. For this reason, he emphasized, the United States is more afraid for its funds abroad than others are about theirs, on the grounds that its funds are exposed to dangers greater than those to which Arab investments in the United States might be exposed as a result of political vicissitudes and individual whims.

Al-'Atiqi said that the various Arab assets and investments in the United States total not more than \$22 billion--equivalent to only 7 percent of other foreign assets and investments in the United States.

On the basis of these figures, Al-'Atiqi argued against boasting and exaggerating. He asked: Why should we therefore pretend that the United States would be bankrupt if we withdrew our funds. He explained that the enemies of Arabs and Islam exploit such claims and use them against the Arabs and Muslims. He pointed out that Zionists and Jews fight against everything conducive to rapprochement with the American people and are dismayed by every rapprochement between the United States and the Arabs.

Replying to a question, Al-'Atiqi excluded the possibility of recourse to an oil embargo. He said Islam preaches that people should share three things: water, pasture and firewood. He said that no state has the right to inflict harm on world states. He added: We have oil and we have the right to control its price and production, but to a degree that will not harm the world.

To another question, Al-'Atiqi denied that Kuwait had suggested relinquishing the dollar and replacing it with a basket of currencies. He said: We have not suggested a basket of currencies and we are still with the dollar. He also denied that the slump in the value of the dollar has affected Kuwait's investments abroad. He said the fall in the purchasing power of the dollar during the past 5 years has been overcome through sound investment.

He also denied reports about the possibility of oil running out in 25 years' time. He also excluded the likelihood of reaching an agreement on the Gulf dinar soon.

OMAN

SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES MUSCAT 20 DECEMBER

JN210736 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Muscat, 21 December--Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre left here last night after a short visit of several hours to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, the Somali minister held talks with Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qays 'Abd al-Munim Zawawi on bilateral relations, issues of mutual concern and issues in the Arab arena.

PDRY

SOVIET DEPUTY JUSTICE MINISTER ARRIVES IN ADEN

LD201935 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD/EA

[Excerpt] Brother Khalid Fadl Mansur, minister of justice, at noon received in his office Comrade Aleksandr Sukharev, first deputy minister of justice of the USSR and chairman of the Soviet-Yemeni Friendship Society.

Comrade Sukharev expressed his gratitude for the reception and hailed the achievements of the Yemeni people in their struggle to build a new life under the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party, particularly in the legislative and juridical spheres. He also noted the major role played by the Soviet-Yemeni Friendship Society in strengthening and deepening the relations between the two friendly peoples.

Comrade Sukharev and his delegation arrived in Aden this morning on a visit to Democratic Yemen that will last several days, during which he will participate in the period dedicated to Soviet-Yemeni friendship, which will begin on 22 December.

OFFICIAL RETURNS FROM YAR WITH PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

LD201226 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Dec 79 LD/EA

[Summary] Abdallah Ahmad al-Ghanim, secretary of the Supreme People's Council Presidium [title as heard], returned to Aden today from North Yemen. He told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY that he had brought a verbal message for 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the question of Yemeni unity and the resumption by the unity committees of their work at the beginning of January.

SUBCOMMITTEES TO DISCUSS JERUSALEM 14 JAN MEETING

NC201651 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 20 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 December--MENA has learned that during the plenary meeting of the autonomy talks yesterday, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil insisted that Jerusalem be included in the subcommittees' agenda since East Jerusalem was part of the West Bank and since whatever applied to the West Bank, be it elections or anything else, must also apply to East Jerusalem.

Yosef Burg, Israeli interior minister and head of the Israeli delegation to the autonomy talks, objected to this because he had no authority to discuss the question of Jerusalem, but the plenary meeting finally decided to include the topic on the agenda of the subcommittees, which are scheduled to meet on 14 January.

LIAISON OFFICES IN WEST BANK, GAZA TO BE NUCLEUS OF EMBASSY

NC201615 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 20 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 December--MENA has learned that the liaison offices that Egypt has asked to set up in the West Bank and Gaza will be the nucleus of an Egyptian Embassy after the Palestinian entity is established. In other words, it will be similar to the office that the United States set up in Peking before it had diplomatic relations with China.

It is known that Egypt has asked to set up a liaison office in the West Bank and Gaza so that it can directly contact the Palestinians to learn their demands.

AS-SADAT ORDERS STUDY ON DIVERTING NILE WATER FOR PILGRIMS

LD201007 Cairo OCTOBER in Arabic 16 Dec 79 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "As-Sadat Orders Comprehensive Study on Directing Nile Water to Jerusalem: The 'New Zamzam' Project"]

[Text] On Tuesday, 17 November, President as-Sadat gave the green light to begin digging the "peace canal" between Farskur and At-Tinah, at Kilometer 25 on the Ismailia-Port Said road, to carry water under the Suez Canal in order to irrigate half a million feddan of land in Sinai.

President as-Sadat has also asked those concerned to conduct a comprehensive practical study with the aim of directing Nile water to Jerusalem, so that it can be at the disposal of the faithful visiting Al-Aqsa mosque, the Holy Sepulcher and the Wailing Wall.

The president said: Since we are working for a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem, we will offer this water as a contribution on behalf of the Egyptian people and of hundreds of millions of Muslims in commemoration of the peace initiative.

He said: In the name of Egypt and its great Al-Azhar and in the name of defending peace, the Nile water will become the new "Zamzam Well" [after Mecca's holy Zamzam Well] for believers in the three monotheistic religions. Just as the religious complex in the holy valley of Tuwa in Sinai is the symbol of rapprochement among those worshipping the one Almighty, these waters will be new evidence that we are advocates of peace and goodness.

AL-AKHBAR SAYS COMMUNISM IS BEHIND ARAB, IRANIAN TURMOIL

NC210355 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 21 Dec 79 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The newspaper AL-AKHBAR carries an article on the Tunis and Grand Mosque incidents. AL-AKHBAR says: The private adviser of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba has spoken of the facts behind the storming of the Great Mosque. The adviser announced that some elements connected with the armed group which attacked the Mecca Great Mosque had fomented unrest in Tunis in the few days following the mosque incident. He said: All these elements have been discovered. In the final analysis, it was proved that these elements worked for the left and for communism.

AL-AKHBAR adds: This announcement--made by President Habib Bourguiba's adviser--reveals the real nature of all the upheavals, disturbances and conspiracies which occur in the Arab area and throughout the Middle East. The left, or Marxist communism, directs these upheavals and plots and in doing so enlists its agents and followers to achieve its ambitions and objectives. We have frequently mentioned this fact in our articles and warnings. We have said that the communists are trying to cover up their objectives, conspiracies and suspicious moves by giving them a false Islamic image and by upholding this as a slogan aimed at misleading and deceiving the simpletons.

The paper then compares these [Arab world] incidents with those of Iran. It says: The incidents in Iran; that is, the disturbances, murders, assassinations and acts of anarchy, are ravaging the country under the banner of the Islamic revolution. Khomeyni's turban is also used as the emblem of these incidents. However, all these incidents are nothing but the work of communism--its brainchild. The Tudeh communist party has disappeared from the scene, because the communists are adamant that all communist aspects be hidden. This party had been known for its communist nature for a long time. It had carried out well known, though unsuccessful, experiments in the eras of Mossadeq and Aytollah Kashani. This party is now reappearing with Aytollah Khomeyni under the name of the Islamic Revolutionary Party. In the name of Islam, this party is perpetrating obnoxious and woeful things and blood is staining the soil of Iran.

A just word was said by Sultan Qabus of Oman in his statement on the situation in the Arab area and the Gulf area. The sultan said: As long as Soviet influence continues in Iran and the Gulf area to achieve its ambitions, the area will continue to be the scene of endless troubles and conspiracies. Nor is it possible to achieve stability and security in the Arab area, except by getting rid of this influence.

AL-AKHBAR says in conclusion: This is a fact--and it has been corroborated by the statement of President Bourguiba's adviser. However, regrettably this fact has not penetrated the minds of many Arabs, although it concerns them primarily and threatens their very existence. This is the source of danger, as illustrated by this fact.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON IRAN, INTERNAL ISSUES

LD201611 Kuwait AS-SIYAH in Arabic 18 Dec 79 pp 1,16 LD

[Mahmud al-'Abdallah report on press conference given by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, on 17 December in Baghdad]

[Text] Baghdad--During a meeting with Arab and foreign journalists yesterday Revolution Command Council member and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz revealed that Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, former assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party who is in charge of foreign relations, has been relieved of his post and his activities have been suspended. Tariq 'Aziz said: "This was the decision and the opinion of the leadership--to be content with this sort of punishment against Dr ar-Razzaz. He is now under house arrest."

This came in answer to a question from the press pointing out that a certain name was not mentioned among the names of the conspirators condemned following the recent conspiracy by plotters against the regime.

'Aziz told the journalists that Iraqi institutions in Iran are still being attacked in a very cruel manner and that some [Iraqi] teachers and their families in Iran are being terrorized. He said such behavior is unethical and hostile and Iraq cannot remain silent about it. The Iraqi foreign minister yesterday summoned the Iranian charge in Baghdad and informed him that Iraq cannot remain silent about these attacks and will withdraw all Iraqi citizens and employees from Iran.

Replying to a question regarding Iraqi-Iranian relations, Tariq 'Aziz said: "In fact, we cannot understand the Iranian Government's attitude toward Iraq and the Arab issues." He continued: "When the Iranian Government declared that it was against imperialism and Zionism, we expressed our satisfaction with this attitude, because during the shah's era Iran was an ally of Israel and cooperated with it. But what about the attitude of the Iranian authorities now in power on basic Arab issues? There are fundamental issues on which Iran must explain its attitude, so we can be sure there has been a real change in its stand. The first of these issues is the question of the Arab islands which the shah occupied in the Arab Gulf with the backing of imperialism and Zionism and through reliance on his military strength, giving the excuse that he was playing the role of policeman in the Gulf. If the new Iranian regime really wants to adopt an attitude different from the shah's, it must return the Arab territories. I would say that Palestine is not the only cherished Arab land. All Arab land is cherished, and no one who usurps or occupies an Arab land can be a friend of the Arabs."

Tariq 'Aziz revealed that in 1973 Iraq was compelled to make concessions in Shatt al-'Arab in order to be able to take part in the 1973 war, since the following day the Iraqi Government issued a statement declaring that it was prepared to deal with Iran by peaceful methods in order to safeguard Iraq's eastern flank and to insure military participation against Israel. This statement meant that Iraq was prepared to discuss Iran's claims in Shatt al-'Arab and, consequently, an agreement was reached in 1975 giving Iran power to control part of Shatt al-'Arab.

V. 21 Dec 79

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IRAQ

Replying to a question from AS-SIYASAH regarding the projected National Council, the legislative council for the [Kurdish] self-rule area and Iraq's progress toward democracy, Tariq 'Aziz said: "We have published the National Council bill and the bill for the legislative council of the self-rule area and called upon the masses, through the popular organizations, to discuss them so that we can find out the masses' views on them before they are finally drafted. This is because we want to develop the democratic experiment in the country through greater popular participation in a manner compatible with the new stage which the revolution has reached in building the new society. The new council, which will be freely elected, will become an active and effective institution in legislating and controlling the government and the state organs."

Regarding the creation of an opposition following the democratic process that Iraq will go through and whether the Communist Party will take part in it, he said: "The democracy we are seeking is not derived from the liberal concept of democracy, because the democracy we are seeking has a different concept which, in our opinion, involves active, effective and free participation in building and determining the country's future. Regarding the Iraqi Communist Party, it has chosen to leave the Progressive Nationalist Front and adopt a stand hostile to the country. Therefore, it will not be allowed to participate."

He continued: "We are not yet convinced that the new regime in Iran is different, unless, that is, the regime voluntarily abandons the illegal power that the shah obtained during abnormal circumstances and only because of Iraq's fulfillment of its duty to oppose the Zionist entity militarily. We also observe that the Iranian regime is interfering in Arab internal affairs. In this respect we find no compatibility or harmony between the claim that the Iranian regime is against imperialism and Zionism and its propaganda and political activities that stir up conflicts and differences in the Arab homeland and lay claim to Iranian ownership of certain parts of Arab territories. Therefore, we clearly say we will not be fooled by such political gimmicks. The Iranian regime claims to be with the Arabs in Palestine while it is against them in the Arab Gulf and Shatt al-'Arab."

DETAINED TEACHERS RETURN FROM IRAN 20 DECEMBER

JN210745 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 December--A total of 29 Iraqi teachers who were deported by the Iranian authorities after a 10-day detainment arrived home last night. The Iranian authorities decision to release the detained Iraqis came about as a result of an official Iraqi warning that it would withdraw all Iraqi subjects and the diplomatic corps if the detained Iraqis were not released.

The returning teachers said that during their detainment, they were subjected to psychological torture and questioning. They added that immoral insults were hurled at them while their families were subjected to various kinds of harassment at the hands of Khomeyni's guards.

The Iraqi teachers also noted that the Iraqi elementary schools in Iran were broken into and inspection campaigns were carried out by Khomeyni's guards, who later arrested several teachers under false charges.

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ARGENTINE TRADE SECRETARY DEPARTS 20 DECEMBER

JN200839 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 December--Alejandro Manuel Estrada, Argentine secretary of state for trade and international economic negotiations, and his accompanying delegation ended a 4-day visit to Iraq and left for home today.

The Argentine secretary said he held talks with Iraqi officials on bolstering cooperation relations between Argentina and Iraq, especially in the fields of industry and agriculture.

TANZANIA'S NYERERE DEPARTS AFTER 3-DAY VISIT

JN201007 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 20 December--Tanzanian President Julius Kambarage Nyerere ended his 3-day visit to Iraq and left for home today. The Tanzanian president was seen off at Baghdad International Airport by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the deputy prime ministers, Revolutionary Command Council members and top state and party officials.

The Tanzanian and Iraqi sides signed two agreements which stipulate an increase in cooperation in the areas of banking, technical matters, youth and sports. The agreements were signed for the Iraqi side by Finance Minister Thamir Razuqi and Youth Minister Karim Mahmud al-Mulla, and for the Tanzanian side by National Education Minister Nicolas Alfred Kuhanga.

CUBAN DELEGATION ARRIVES ON FIRST CUBAN FLIGHT

JN201139 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 December--The first Cuban plane has landed at Baghdad International Airport on the first Cuban Airways flight between Havana and Baghdad. A Cuban Government delegation comprising representatives from the Foreign Ministry, the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the Peoples and the National Institute of Tourism arrived on the flight.

It is to be recalled that an agreement was signed between the Iraqi Transport and Communications Ministry and the Cuban Transportation Ministry last year stipulating the operation of flights between the two states at the rate of one flight every 2 weeks.

NEW NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL SPEAKER APPOINTED

JN201640 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] A royal decree has been issued appointing Ahmad at-Tarawinah as speaker of the National Consultative Council as of today.

CABINET AFFAIRS MINISTER RECEIVES SECOND POST

JN210735 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Dec 79 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--It has been decided that Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Hasan Ibrahim will occupy the post of head of the Executive Bureau for Occupied Territory Affairs.

YUGOSLAV INFORMATION SECRETARY ARRIVES 16 DECEMBER

JN162136 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Yugoslav Federal Information Secretary Ismailj Bajra arrived in Amman this evening, leading a four-man delegation on an official 4-day visit to Jordan. Mr Bajra praised the strong relations between Jordan and Yugoslavia, which were established by His Majesty King Husayn and President Josip Broz Tito during their meeting. He added that His Majesty King Husayn's meetings with the Yugoslav president had a deep effect on the development and promotion of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, as well as on the strengthening of the nonaligned movement, in which Jordan is playing a prominent and effective role.

Mr Bajra added that his visit to Jordan aims at deepening the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and at completing the discussion and implementation of what was agreed upon during Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah's visit to Yugoslavia in 1978.

Mr Bajra affirmed his country's absolute support for the just Arab issues and the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland. He praised the progress achieved by Jordan in various fields, under His Majesty King Husayn's wise leadership.

Mr Bajra was received at Amman airport by Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the Information Ministry under secretary, the directors of departments in the ministry, the Yugoslav ambassador in Amman and the embassy staff.

Official Talks

JN171408 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Official talks at the Information Ministry began at noon today between the Jordanian side under Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and Yugoslav Federal Secretary of Information Ismailj Bajra.

Opening the meeting, Abu 'Awdah welcomed the Yugoslav visitor and the delegation accompanying him. 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah affirmed Jordan's concern over bolstering and strengthening existing bilateral relations, particularly in the various information fields.

The Jordanian minister reviewed Jordan's stand on the Middle East crisis and the efforts being exerted to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

'Adnan Abu 'Awdah focused on Jordan's distinctive stand, since Jordan is in direct contact with the citizens in the occupied Arab territories, and the role it plays in acquainting the world with what is taking place there.

The Yugoslav secretary affirmed his country's support for and backing of the Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate.

The Jordanian information minister then reviewed with the visiting secretary the clauses of the proposed bilateral information cooperation program which affirms the desire to promote bilateral cooperation and bolster it in the information field. The formulation of the cooperation program is in implementation of the agreement on bilateral cultural cooperation that was reached by the Jordanian and Yugoslav governments and signed in Belgrade in 1977. The program includes bolstering information cooperation between Jordan and Yugoslavia in the fields of the two news agencies in Jordan and Yugoslavia, radio, television and the press, as well as exchanging reports and documentary films via satellite.

The program will be signed tomorrow evening by several directors of information bureaus. The talks were attended on the Yugoslav side by the members of the delegation accompanying the visiting secretary and the Yugoslav ambassador in Amman. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by several directors.

Meets Badran

JN181226 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received Yugoslav Federal Secretary of Information Ismailj Bajra at his office this morning. During the meeting, Mudar Badran and Ismailj Bajra reviewed bilateral relations, particularly in the information field, the Middle East situation and Jordanian-Yugoslav coordination at conferences of the nonaligned states.

Mudar Badran and Ismailj Bajra also discussed ways of bolstering economic, cultural and touristic cooperation between Jordan and Yugoslavia. At the end of the meeting Mudar Badran extended an invitation to the president of the Federal Executive Council to visit Jordan. The meeting was attended by Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the Yugoslav ambassador in Amman and the delegation accompanying the visiting secretary.

Information Cooperation Program

JN181905 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Jordan and Yugoslav have signed an executive program for cooperation in the information field for 1980 and 1981.

The program was signed by Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and Yugoslav Federal Secretary of Information Ismailj Bajra at the Information Ministry in Amman this evening.

The program, which stems from the cultural agreement signed between the two countries in 1977, includes cooperation between the Yugoslav and Jordanian news agencies, and in the fields of radio, television, press and documentary films as well as cooperation between the Yugoslav Federal Secretariat for Information and the Jordanian Information Ministry.

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Following the signing of the program, Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah delivered a speech on this occasion in which he said that signing this program is a useful and constructive step in bolstering cultural and information cooperation between Jordan and Yugoslavia and the bilateral cultural agreement that was signed in 1977.

The information minister said the program is a solid foundation for proceeding toward strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two states and reflects joint determination for cooperation within the framework of the nonaligned movement. 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah added: As we sign this program, we are following in the steps of our great leaders, His Majesty King Husayn and President Josip Broz Tito, who laid down the foundations of friendship and cooperation between our two states a long time ago.

In a reply speech, the Yugoslav federal secretary of information said: We have only put on paper what actually exists between our two states. As we sign this program, we are giving impetus to the deep ties linking Jordan and Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav secretary added that signing the executive program of the bilateral agreement will increase Jordan's and Yugoslavia's determination to bolster and strengthen the existing bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation, whose foundations were laid down by His Majesty King Husayn and President Josip Broz Tito a long time ago during their recurrent meetings.

Bajra Departure

JN201251 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Yugoslav Federal Information Secretary Ismailj Bajra left Amman for home today following a 5-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with several Jordanian officials.

Mr Bajra expressed satisfaction with the talks he held with Jordanian officials. He said the talks reconfirmed the depth and strength of relations between Jordan and Yugoslavia. In a statement to JNA, he said relations between Jordan and Yugoslavia are strong, thanks to the efforts of His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Josip Broz Tito.

Mr Bajra explained that his visit was an opportunity to affirm the two friendly countries' readiness to cooperate in various cultural, information, development and scientific fields. The Yugoslav secretary expressed Yugoslavia's appreciation and respect for Jordan's positive stand on efforts aimed at establishing peace in the Middle East and for Jordan's policy based on true and sincere cooperation with the Arab countries.

It will be recalled that during his official visit to Jordan, the Yugoslav secretary signed an agreement for information cooperation between Jordan and Yugoslavia.

ROMANIAN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JN191443 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Ion Stanescu, minister state secretary of industrial construction, arrived in Amman today. He leads an official delegation to the third meeting of the Jordanian-Romanian Joint Committee for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation which begins at the National Planning Council tomorrow.

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During the meetings, which will last several days, ways of developing economic, scientific and development relations, the expansion of the refinery project in Az-Zarqa' and the national high-voltage 1032 KW network will be discussed.

Meetings Begin

JN201646 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] The third meeting of the Jordanian-Romanian Joint Committee for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation began at the National Planning Council premises today. The committee reviewed the various aspects of cooperation between the two countries and future steps to boost this cooperation. The committee also studied the projects being implemented by Romanian companies in Jordan.

Three subcommittees have been formed to discuss aspects of cooperation and coordination between the two countries. These subcommittees will be in charge of:

1. Expansion of the Jordanian petroleum refinery.
2. Trade and industrial cooperation.
3. Tourism, cultural and technical cooperation.

The subcommittees will submit their recommendations to the next joint committee meeting, which will be held next Sunday.

TURKISH TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES 19 DECEMBER

JN200751 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Dec 79 p 3 JN

[Text] Amman--A Turkish trade delegation arrived in Amman yesterday on a visit to Jordan, during which it will hold trade talks with Jordanian officials.

The talks, which will last for several days, will deal with the possibility of bolstering bilateral trade exchange and marketing Turkish products in Jordan and Jordanian products in Turkey.

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L E B A N O N

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FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS COMMENTS ON UN RESOLUTION

NC211110 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Commenting on the recent UN Security Council resolution, renewing the mandate of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, Lebanese Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus said: This resolution is the product of our efforts combined with those of the Secretariat General and some fraternal and friendly states. It reflects what is possible in the present complicated international circumstances. The generalities contained in the resolution, expressing concern over Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and integrity are familiar terms. However, the resolution includes some aspects which can help achieve progress in the field--if good will exists. The near future will show.

Butrus added: This resolution draws attention to the international community and the fact that some powerful states--in spite of the responsibility they are shouldering in the Middle East crisis and in particular in the southern Lebanon problem--appear to doubt the usefulness of continued deployment of the UN forces in the south, unless the necessary facilities are made available to them; needless to say, a great deal of this availability is in their power.

Butrus said: To the paragraph noting the authority's intention to adopt a plan for the south, I can remark that naturally Lebanon is foremost concerned, and should be constantly active in liberating its occupied territory and restoring its sovereignty. However, we should not forget that this does not mean Lebanon is responsible for the difficulties being encountered in implementing this in the field. In his report, the UN secretary general holds the parties in southern Lebanon responsible in varying degrees. Needless to say, unless Lebanon obtains effective assistance from fraternal and friendly states and from the international community, Lebanon cannot solve what the United Nations failed to solve.

The foreign minister concluded by saying: In the light of the debate after voting on the resolution and in the light of the various stands, I believe the question now is: Can we expect a further renewal of the UN forces mandate in the future if we fail during the current renewal to achieve sound progress in the field in the south?

VOL: MONTAZERI SAYS MORE IRANIAN VOLUNTEERS TO ARRIVE

NC210622 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 21 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Leader of the Iranian volunteers Mohammad Montazeri has confirmed that several volunteers are now in southern Lebanon, adding that 30 more volunteers will be transported from Tehran this morning to Syria to join the previous two groups.

Montazeri has told news agencies he hopes to send a total of 650 volunteers to Syria in the next 2 weeks.

Montazeri told AFP that Syrian authorities are providing the necessary air transport for the volunteers.

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LEBANON

VOL REPORTS ISRAELI AIR, NAVAL ACTIVITY IN SOUTH

NC210623 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 21 Dec 79 NC

[Text] While some people are attempting to stir up demonstrations in northern Lebanon and other areas, Israeli naval and air movements are continuing in southern Lebanon. Israeli gunboats entered territorial Lebanese waters reaching a point opposite Al-Qasimiyah bridge while artillery shelling was exchanged between the Palestinian and leftist positions in Marj 'Uyun. Damage was caused to buildings and plantations in the area, particularly in Az-Zrariyah near the town of Ansar where the fedayeen have constructed a military airfield.

INA REPORTS ISRAELI-RIGHTIST SHELLING IN SOUTH

JN201706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 December--Rightist militias and Zionist forces this afternoon shelled with long-range artillery the area of Az-Zrariya in the western sector of southern Lebanon.

The INA correspondent in the south reports that the 30-minute shelling damaged plantations but caused no casualties. The rightist militias opened machinegun fire at the Irish forces serving within UNIFIL on the Brashit-Majdal Slim axis in the central sector of southern Lebanon.

Enemy warboats were seen today patrolling the southern coast.

CUSTOMS OFFICIALS CONFISCATE RADIO SETS FOR FATAH

NC201320 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 20 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Customs officers at Beirut airport today confiscated 20 sophisticated radio monitoring receivers imported for Fatah. The confiscated sets were referred to the military judiciary.

KHADDAM RETURNS FROM LIBYA AFTER DELIVERING MESSAGE

JN201642 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus from Benghazi this evening after delivering a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Libyan leader Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi at noon today.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the message deals with the latest developments in the Arab arena and the restoration of Libyan-Palestinian relations after they have become tense recently.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES LEBANESE CP OFFICIALS

JN201358 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 20 Dec--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received George Hawi, Lebanese Communist Party secretary general, and Nadim 'Abd as-Samad, member of the party's Politburo.

The two sides discussed the latest development in the region and in the Lebanese arena in particular.

BA'TH PARTY REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD 22 DEC

JN192146 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[From "Today's Events" program]

[Excerpt] On Saturday, 22 December, the seventh ordinary regional conference of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party will convene. Writing on this big event before its occurrence has its justifications. The interest of our Arab people, particularly the Syrian Arab people, has since the beginning of the party elections focused on the date of this conference and the results it may come out with.

VOL REPORTS ON 18 DEC CLASHES IN ALEPPO

NC191328 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 19 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Our correspondent reports that an armed clash occurred at noon yesterday in the area of Al-Hamidiyah on the outskirts of Aleppo. There were a number of casualties involving people in a bus and a Mercedes taxi. At 1300, the clashes were extended for the first time to the Armenian area of As-Sulaymaniyah. Security measures were adopted and a curfew was imposed on the area.

Our correspondent adds that there was heavy firing near the military hospital in the area of Sayf ad-Dawlah. Four members of the intelligence service who were in a jeep were wounded.

Military helicopters later dropped leaflets telling people that they had to stay indoors after 1800. Our correspondent further reports that the area of Al-Qantari in Aleppo was also the scene of a series of explosions and indiscriminate gunfire. Special Syrian units in Aleppo were reinforced with army units to control the deteriorating situation.

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LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

ID201504 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Benghazi, 20 Dec, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, received today Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Mr Khaddam had arrived at Benina airport this morning on a visit to the Jamahiriya. He was met by Foreign Secretary Dr at-Turayki.

ENVOY IN MANILA CALLS FOR 'ARAFAT'S DISMISSAL

OW201433 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT 20 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Manila, 20 Dec (AFP)--Libya today called for the ouster of Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for allegedly deviating from the "revolutionary path."

"Deviation from the revolutionary path must be eliminated regardless of who is involved in such kind of conduct," declared Libya's Ambassador to the Philippines Moustafa Dreiza in a hurriedly-called news conference. He said Libya considered 'Arafat as following his path of deviation "as far as they still retain a PLO office in Cairo and they have dubious relations with (Egyptian President Anwar) as-Sadat."

Asked whether he was advocating the ouster of 'Arafat as leader of the Palestinian guerrilla movement, Mr Dreiza replied: "We are advocating the ouster of any elements regardless of any names that work against the right path of solving the Palestinian problem in the right way." He said, however, it was up to the Palestinians to remove their leaders because "it is their own problem and [word indistinct] just expressed what we believe in."

Ambassador Dreiza denied PLO accusations that Libya was interfering in PLO affairs and had closed down the PLO offices in Tripoli and Benghazi, saying the offices are [word indistinct] and manned.

STAFF MAJOR JALLUD RECEIVES USSR'S MORDVINOV

LD201422 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud this morning received Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who is visiting the Jamahiriya to attend the fifth session of the joint Arab Libyan-Soviet committee for economic, trade and scientific cooperation. The meeting, which took place at the People's Palace in Tripoli, was attended by Engineer Jum'ah al-Arbash, secretary of the General People's Committee for Electricity, and by the Soviet ambassador to the Jamahiriya.

MOROCCO

AL-MUSTAQBAL INTERVIEWS ISTIQLAL PARTY LEADERS ON SAHARA

ID001450 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, 20 Dec (MAP)--The Paris-based magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL, published in its last issue an interview with three members of the Moroccan Istiqlal Party's Executive Committee: M'hamed Douiri, minister of equipment and national promotion; Abdelkarim Ghallab, director of the Istiqlal Party's daily AL-'ALAM and president of the party's parliamentary group; and Larbi Messari, news editor of AL-'ALAM.

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This interview, reproduced Wednesday by the other party daily, L'OPINION, dealt with the party's participation in the government and its relations with the Moroccan opposition, the achievement of the country's territorial integrity and the democratic experience.

Answering to a question on the Sahara and the perspectives of peaceful solution, Messari pointed out that "the Sahara question entered a dangerous phase, when it became an international conflict where Algeria and Morocco (originally the only countries concerned) will find themselves in the hand of foreign and occult [as received] interests."

Asked about Arab mediations, Douiri emphasized the Moroccan people's attachment to their "Arabity" [as received], and their sensibility toward the Palestinian cause in particular. He reminded that when King Hassan II of Morocco asked, few months before the October 1973 war, for volunteers to the Golan and Sinai, all volunteered and military general staffs had to resort to the drawing of lots.

Answering to a question whether the Istiqlal Party supported the king to share the fruits of his success or whether it presented itself as the unique replacement solution, Messari underlined that the absolute unanimity of Moroccans around the national cause is due to their conviction that the Moroccan existence itself [is] linked to its territorial integrity.

"All Moroccans agree on this point and share profits and losses," said he. Asked about his party's achievements on the road to socialism as part of the government's coalition, Douiri pointed out that, though a minority in the government, "we have not stopped fighting to make of socialism a concrete daily reality and not a simple slogan. In addition, had it not been for our dispute with the socialist party (Socialist Union of Popular Forces "USFP" Party) we would have made great steps in this direction," he concluded.

SUDAN

COMMISSION INVESTIGATING LEADERSHIP CHANGE ARRIVES IN JUBA

LD202224 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD/EA

[Text] The commission of inquiry formed to investigate constitutional proceedings governing the recently-made changes in the regional people's assembly leadership arrived in Juba today.

The commission consists of Dr Awn ash-Sharif Qasim, member of the Political Bureau and deputy secretary of the department of political affairs and organizations, as chairman; Mr Zayn al-Abidin Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir, deputy secretary of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as member; and Mr Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid, head of the parliamentary group of the National People's Assembly, as member.

In a statement, the commission chairman said: The commission's task is confined to the constitutional proceedings governing the change which recently took place in the regional people's assembly leadership. The commission will also investigate the matter of citizen Samuel Aru Bol, [regional minister of administration, police and prisons]. His excellency stressed that the task is both political and judicial. The commission views the matter as one to be handled by the political organization, and thus will submit its recommendations to the president of the Sudanese Socialist Union.

BEGIN REJECTS EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL ON LIAISON OFFICES

TA201839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin has rejected the Egyptian proposal to set up liaison offices in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Speaking at a meeting of his Herut Party, Begin declared there will never be any such offices and there is no provision for them in the Camp David accords. Earlier, the official Egyptian news agency said the proposed liaison offices would serve as the nucleus of an Egyptian Embassy when a Palestinian entity is set up, but Begin rejected the idea of the offices tonight.

The prime minister also turned down an Egyptian proposal about Jerusalem to the extent that the residents of East Jerusalem must take part in the voting for the autonomy council. Begin declared that any suggestion that might lead to the redivision of the city has been and will be rejected out of hand. He said the residents can vote for the Knesset--Israel's parliament--or the Jerusalem City Council but not for the autonomy council.

Begin also discounted reports that terrorist organizations have toned down their activities. He said that Israel's security forces have prevented many sabotage efforts.

Our political reporter Shim'on Schiffer says that Prime Minister Begin and President as-Sadat will not solve the main issues affecting autonomy when they meet in Aswan on 7 January. Instead, the summit is to be largely a demonstration of goodwill. Schiffer's report is read in the studio.

[Unidentified correspondent--live] Neither Israel nor Egypt is interested in causing a crisis at this time. Authoritative sources in Jerusalem say both sides are waiting to see how the Middle East looks after the current turmoil in Iran and elsewhere settles down a little.

Moreover, if there were a crisis in the autonomy negotiations, neither side could expect the United States to step in and use its full influence to break the deadlock. This is because of the approaching presidential elections in the United States. The U.S. administration will simply be too preoccupied. So, the Aswan summit will probably be a demonstration of friendship.

There will be two meetings between Premier Begin and President as-Sadat, followed by a joint news conference. There will probably be a communique declaring that normalization between Israel and Egypt is proceeding on schedule and efforts to achieve an overall Middle East peace will continue.

Israeli officials who visited Egypt to prepare for the visit found the Egyptians anxious to give Begin an impressive welcome. The prime minister's press adviser Dan Patir said the head of President as-Sadat's bureau, Hasan Kamal, dropped everything else and flew to Aswan to go over the whole route with the Israeli officials.

Premier Begin will be guest of honor at a state banquet. He will visit the Aswan dam and nearby land earmarked for agricultural development. He will be flown to the Valley of the Pharaohs at Abu-Sunbul and will tour the capital of Upper Egypt, Luxor.

BURG: SETTLEMENTS AROUND JERUSALEM ESSENTIAL FOR DEFENSE

TA201636 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1530 GMT 20 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Bet-el, 20 Dec--Gush 'Etzyon and the Jewish settlements around Jerusalem constitute a central point of the State of Israel's policy for defense of Jerusalem.

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I have told this to both the Egyptians and the Americans during our meetings. These remarks were made by Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg, chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Autonomy Affairs, during the cornerstone laying ceremony for the Bet-el religious college in the settlement of Bet-el.

The interior minister noted that he had explained both to the Americans and the Egyptians that Israel had the right to settle in Judaea and Samaria and that only if there are many Jews around Jerusalem will it be possible to guard the capital. The minister added that the State of Israel had learned the lesson of Gush 'Etzyon in 1948 and that it now had to make efforts toward settlement.

The ceremony was also attended by the commander of the Judaea and Samaria area, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, and the chairman of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, Matityahu Drobles.

FIJI'S PRIME MINISTER ENDS VISIT 21 DEC

TA210554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The prime minister of Fiji, winding up his visit to Israel, says that in the future his country will continue its independent stand at the United Nations and in other world organizations. He was the guest of honor at a dinner given last night by the director of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Yosef Ciechanover. It was decided that an Israeli team will go to Fiji to look into ways of organizing village life. Fiji experts will come here for advanced training in agriculture. Fiji's prime minister will leave the country this morning.

MA'ARIV ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF INDEPENDENCE PARTY

TA201202 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 79 p 4 TA

[By Avraham Tirosh]

[Text] Prof 'Ezra Zohar has formed a new party, "Independence," that will focus on domestic issues and participate in the next elections to the Knesset. He announced yesterday that party branches have already been set up in five major cities.

Professor Zohar explained that his movement's name symbolizes its future struggle for the independence of Israel and its citizens. "Israel is now a protectorate of the United States and has lost its independence. Its citizens are not independent. They are dependent on the government instead of the government being dependent on them," he said.

REPORT ON MINISTER LANDAU'S RESIGNATION DENIED

TA201518 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 79 p 4 TA

[By Avraham Tirosh]

[Excerpt] It was made clear by the prime minister's office yesterday that Minister Landau has never said he wanted to retire. Minister Landau is recovering at home after staying in the hospital for about a week. The prime minister spoke with him on the telephone yesterday and Mr Begin's confidants later said that Mr Landau will return to work.

Nonetheless, some liberals propose asking the prime minister that Minister Landau return to work as a minister without portfolio and the liberals receive the transport portfolio through the appointment of the deputy mayor of Tel Aviv, David Shifman, to this post.

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The argument is that after Herut gets another minister (Yitzhaq Shamir in the foreign minister's post), the Liberals should also get another minister.

'AL HAMISHMAR ASSESSES LIBERAL PARTY'S CABINET STRENGTH

TA191351 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Dec 79 p 1 TA

[Text] The Liberal Party Executive will meet in Tel Aviv tomorrow to discuss its demand for continuing the process of Cabinet reorganization and for bolstering the power of the Liberal Party in the Cabinet.

It has been learned that since it became clear that the prime minister had already decided to appoint Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir to the post of foreign minister, the liberals might abandon their demand for that portfolio.

Liberal Party circles entertain the possibility that following the withdrawal of MK Mordekhai Algerabli from the Democratic Movement, and in view of rumors that MK's Shlomo Eliyahu and Shafiq As'ad are likely to join the Likud, Minister of Labor and Social Betterment Yisra'el Katz will most probably have to retire from the Cabinet due to the reduced power of the Democrats and his portfolio will be given to Minister Moshe Nissim of the Liberals. The liberals also believe that their party will be compensated by the appointment of deputy ministers from their ranks to two ministries. Meanwhile, the liberals have already been promised that one of their members will receive the post of Knesset speaker in lieu of Yitzhaq Shamir, who will go to the Foreign Ministry.

ELON MORE INVESTMENTS SPECIFIED; AL-KABIR WORK CONTINUES

TA191756 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The lost investments in Elon More amount to 12 million Israeli pounds. Our correspondent Gid'on Zellinger says that the Finance Ministry calculated that the lost investments coming from the government budget amount to over 7 million Israeli pounds while the Jewish Agency's investments amount to over 5 million Israeli pounds. In addition, 29 million Israeli pounds were spent on structures, water containers and a generator, but these are transferable.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that the terrain work carried out in Jabal al-Kabir to prepare the new Elon More site for settlement is continuing. Work teams of the Jewish National Fund have continued their groundbreaking works and have begun preparing the land on the hill for the erection of 17 housing units at the first stage. In the course of the work a section of the road has been enlarged in Dayr al-Hatab village but no solution has yet been found for the problem of the 3 privately-owned meters [of road] at the bottom of the hill.

MISSIONS ABROAD THREATENED, SECURITY STEPPED UP

TA201230 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 79 pp 1, 15 TA

[By Barukh Me'iri]

[Text] It was reported in Jerusalem this morning that there have been threats against Israeli missions abroad in the wake of the assassination of the two terrorists in Cyprus. A security source told MA'ARIV that there have been telephone threats made against the Israeli representatives in Greece and Turkey.

As in past instances, Israeli missions have increased security measures even though they "are always in a constant state of alert."

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ISRAEL

It was reported this morning that the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry will today hold a discussion about the current state of security at Israeli missions abroad. When the Foreign Ministry's director general, Yosef Ciechanover, returns from Cairo he will be given a report on the increased vigilance at all Israeli institutions throughout the world.

No special contacts have been reported between the Israeli Embassy and the Cypriot Government. The embassy has been the target of several demonstrations organized by leftist elements. The Cypriot police prevented access to the Embassy building.

CAPTURED TERRORISTS REVEAL ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS

TA201200 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 79 p 3 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] There were four terrorists in the squad that tried to enter Israel by sea in late November. Each belonged to a different organization. This mixture was the cause of the failure and of misunderstandings, and resulted from various considerations of prestige and loyalty to the commanders of the different organizations. This is the assessment of Israeli sources following the investigation of the two terrorists captured.

These two terrorists said that, in their opinion, the major reasons for the failure of their mission were the faulty instructions and the awkward briefing given them by the PLO officer, Sa'id al-Yusef. He accompanied them until they sailed.

In recent months the security services have been aware of the possibility that terrorists belonging to the rejectionist front led by the PLO would turn into a major operational factor in anti-Israel terrorist activity.

Nevertheless, Israeli sources do not believe the declarations of PLO leaders who emphasize they have decided to completely stop terrorist activity in southern Lebanon. The security services have learned that the leadership of Fatah's military branch is deeply involved in the actions of the rejectionist organizations. As a result of the investigation of the two terrorists caught at sea it has become clear that a senior Fatah officer was present when the terrorist squad from the rejectionist front was sent to sea to carry out a terrorist act in Israel.

However, the Israeli elements believe that in the coming months Fatah will avoid sending its members to carry out terrorist acts in Israel as a tactical move in line with the organization's political offensive throughout the world. Operational activity will be the responsibility of terrorists belonging to the rejectionist front.

AFGHANISTAN

TEHRAN CITES REPORTS OF ARMED FORCES, DEFECTIONS, FIGHTING

LD202233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD

[Text] A reporter for the Islamic movement of Afghanistan, quoting extremely reliable sources, has reported that during the past 3 days over 3000 men from the armed forces in the Herat garrison and 30 troops from the (Shabannam) garrison have joined the ranks of Afghanistan's Muslim strugglers, who are waging a war against the Marxist regime of Hafizollah Amin. The same report also indicates that in this period 21 policemen from the Darvazeh Rah police station in the city of Herat have also joined the ranks of the Afghan mojahedin.

According to the report of the Islamic movement of Afghanistan, in the military clashes which have taken place during the past 3 days between the government forces and the strugglers of the Islamic movement of Afghanistan in the Golran region in Herat Province, a military commander, his deputy and a number of government troops have been killed. On the basis of the same report, in another attack launched by the strugglers from the Islamic movement of Afghanistan a civil servant was killed and the governor of the region was wounded.

REVOLUTION COUNCIL, PRIME MINISTRY MOVE TO NEW OFFICES

LD202050 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD

[Text] The offices of the Revolutionary Council and of the Prime Ministry have been transferred from the People's House to the People's Hall and the Palace of Darul-Aman. The People's House is to be known at present as the People's Museum.

Documents of the government offices and affairs related to the Revolutionary Council and the prime ministry will be signed at the People's Hall and the Palace of Darul-Aman, as of 22 December.

INDIA

DELHI RADIO REPORTS HIGH COURT QUASHING OF GANDHI CASE

BK201638 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Delhi high court today quashed the prosecution of Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr Pranab Mukherjee for their refusal to depose before the Shah Commission. The court held that Mrs Gandhi and Mr Mukherjee were justified in declining to testify before the commission in view of the oath of secrecy they had taken at the time of assuming office.

Mr Justice T.P.S. Chawla, who delivered the judgment, observed that Justice Shah had no right to waive their oath of secrecy and go into the circumstances of the proclamation of the emergency. According to him, the imposition of the emergency was a political decision and as such falls outside the area of judicial review. The judgment, which runs into nearly 350 pages, cites half a dozen grounds for quashing the trial of Mrs Gandhi and Mr Mukherjee.

Justice Chawla said under the Commissions of the Inquiries Act there should be a specific matter of public importance for which the commission is set up. But there was no complaint before the Shah Commission, nor was there any matter brought to its notice by the central government.

Mr Justice Chawla rejected the arguments of the additional solicitor general, Mr K.K. Venugopal, and said a commission cannot be allowed to sit in judgment on Parliament by the central government. The judge observed that both Mrs Gandhi and Mr Mukherjee were not required by the Shah Commission to take oath. The only question asked from them was whether they were willing to make statement and both of them said, no.

The court also held that the Shah Commission transgressed its jurisdiction in having gone into the alleged harassment of four government officials who tried to collect information on the Maruti affair. The Shah Commission was set up only to inquire into the emergency excesses. Therefore, it had no competence to inquire into the alleged harassment of the four officials.

As Justice Chawla finished his 4 hour narration of parts of the judgment, government counsel Mr Kataria sought leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. Justice Chawla said he would take up the appeal tomorrow, but indicated he was inclined to grant it because important questions of law were involved.

Government Can Appeal

BK210802 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Delhi high court today granted the union government leave to appeal to the Supreme Court against its judgment in the oath case against Mrs Gandhi and Mr Pranab Kumar Mukherjee. Mr Justice K.P.S. Chawla granted a certificate of fitness to appeal, observing that the questions involved in the case are of the highest importance.

NEPAL

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON BANGLADESH MINISTER'S VISIT

BK210355 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 20 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Nepal and Bangladesh have reaffirmed their desire to initiate concrete steps toward the exploration of possibilities for harnessing water resources for the benefit of the region. A joint communique issued in Katmandu and Dacca this morning at the end of the 4-day official visit to Nepal by the Bangladesh deputy prime minister says the two countries have agreed to exchange information in this regard and to hold discussions.

The communique has expressed satisfaction over the present state of Nepal-Bangladesh relations based on friendship, understanding and cooperation.

Ahmed Departure

BK210356 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 20 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The deputy prime minister in charge of power, water resources and flood control of Bangladesh, Mr Maudud Ahmed, left Katmandu today after completing a 4-day visit to Nepal at the invitation of his majesty's government. He was accorded a warm send-off by the minister of water and power and irrigation, Mr Marich Man Singhu, at Tribhuvan airport.

Mr Ahmed said before departure that he had fruitful discussions on water resources, trade and transit and technical cooperation during his stay. He expressed satisfaction at the increased trade between Nepal and Bangladesh as well as Nepal's utilization of Chittagong port.

PAKISTAN

DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT, LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA

BK201024 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Dec 79 BK

[Text] President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti left Karachi for Saudi Arabia this afternoon at the end of his 5-day state visit to Pakistan. He was seen off at the airport by the Sind governor, Lt Gen S. M. Abbasi, and senior officials. An album of photographs of the visit was presented to him before his departure.

Earlier this morning, the Djibouti president visited the export display center in Karachi. He showed keen interest in Pakistani products and praised their quality. He said he was extremely impressed with the wide range of exportable goods offered by Pakistan. The minister of state for export promotion, Mr Hamid G. Habib, showed the Djibouti president round various sections of the display center and presented him a silver tea set as a souvenir of his visit.

Mme Aisa Aptidon visited the handicapped children center this morning.

Joint Communique Issued

OW210812 Hong Kong AFP in English 2302 GMT 21 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 20 (AFP)--Pakistan and Djibouti today expressed their support for the concept of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace to eliminate great-power rivalries and ensure peace and security in the region.

A joint communique issued at the end of a five-day visit of President Hassan Gouled Aptidon at the invitation of Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq this evening said the two leaders affirmed their support for the Arab cause and called for total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab lands, independence of Palestine, and return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

The two governments condemned South Africa's policy of apartheid and its alleged attempt to set up a "puppet" regime in Namibia. They demanded "genuine majority rule" in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

Pakistan and Djibouti also resolved to cooperate to promote Islamic unity and stressed the need for understanding and solidarity among the Moslem countries.

President Ziaul Haq accepted President Aptidon's invitation to visit Djibouti and the date of his visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels, the communique said.